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ABSTRACT

This English-Cantonese phrase book is designed for the English speaking person learning Cantonese. The useful phrases and vocabulary words are divided into eleven sections: basic needs and safety; greetings and amenities; getting acquainted; directions and classroom articles; calendar, numbers, and time; subjects; shapes, sizes, and colors; body parts and body actions; spatial relations and relative terms; family; and community. In each section the entries include the English phrase and the Cantonese translation. A pronunciation guide to Romanized Cantonese is appended. (NCR)

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LANGUAGE S O S

USEFUL PHRASES IN ENGLISH

CANTONESE

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

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Knowledge of English Yields Success Project

LOS ANGELES CITY SCHOOLS

1974

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Please stop.
Mh-goi néih kéih hái douh.

Please walk.
Mh-gòi néih haàhng háh.

Please listen.
Mh-gòi néih tèng (ngóh góng).

Are you warm?
Néih yiht ma?

Are you cold?
Néih láahng ma?

Boys and girls, put your coats in the closet.
(Boys and girls), jeuhng néih-deih dī lāu jài hái yì-gwaih syu.

(Continued on next page)

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BASIC NEEDS AND SAFETY

Please hang up your coat/sweater.
Mh-gói néih gwa-hóu gi.u lāu/lāang-sāam.

Do you need to have your shoe tied?
Néih yiu yàhn bòng nei bōng haàih-dáai ma?

Do you need to go to the restroom?
Néih yiu heui chi-sǒ ma?

Can you wait until it's outside time to go to the restroom?
Néih hó-yíh dáng-dou lohk-tòhng sīn-ji heui chi-só ma?

The restroom is through that door.
Chi-só hái gó-douh mùhn syu yahp-heui.

Please wash your hands.
Mh-gòi néih sái sáu.

Are you sick?
Néih behng àh!?

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(Continued on next page)

Does it hurt?
Tung mh tung a?

Please bring only fruits and vegetables for snacks.
Sihk lìhng-sihk (snacks) ge sìh-hauh mh-gói néih-deih jihng-haih daai sāng-gwó tuhng-maaih choi je.

Do you need a drink of water?
Néih yiu yám seúi ma?

Do you want juice?
Néih yiu gwó-jāp ma?

Do you want milk?
Néih yiu ngaùh-naáih ma?

Are you hungry?
Néih tóuh-ngoh ma?

Hello!
Hā-loú; wéi; weih.

Good morning.
Jóu-sàhn.

Good afternoon.
(no equivalent term)

Good evening.
(no equivalent term)

Thank you.
Dò-jeh; mh-gòi.

Please.
Chéng; mh-gòi.

Very good.
Hóu hóu.

(Continued on next page)

Yes.
Haih.

No.
M̀-haih.

See you on Monday (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday).
Láih-baai-yāt gin néih (Láih-baai-yih, Láih-baai-sàam,
Láih-baai-sei, Láih-baai-ńgh).

Have a nice weekend.
(no equivalent term)

Goodbye.
Joi-gin.

What's your name?
Néih giu jouh māt-yéh méng?

My name is _____.
Ngóh giu jouh _____.

How old are you?
Néih géi seui a?

I am _____ *years old.*
Ngóh _____ seui.

Where do you live?
Néih jyuh hái bīn-syu a?

I live at (number) _____ *(street)* _____.
Ngóh-jyuh hái _____ houh _____ gaai.

Do you understand me?
Néih jī-dou ngóh góng māt-yéh ma?

Have you studied _____ *before?*
Néih yíh-chìhn hohk-gwo _____ mei a?

(Continued on next page)

Are you buying lunch today?
Néih gàm-yaht máaih ngaan-jau ma?

What's your telephone number?
Néih ge dihn-wá géi-do houh a?

How do you say _____ in Chinese?
Jung-gwok wá _____ dím-yéung góng a?

Please come in.
Chéng yahp-làih.

Please sit down.
Chéng chóh.

Please stand up.
Mh-gói néih kéih héi-sàn.

Please get in line.
Mh-gói néih-(deih) paàih-déui.

Please get in the front of the line.
Mh-gói néih paàih hái chíhn-bihn.

Please get in the back of the line.
Mh-gói néih paàih hái hauh-bihn.

Please stay in line.
Mh-gói néih làuh hái déui syu.

It's time for snacks.
Hó-yíh sihk lìhng-sihk la.

(Continued on next page)

It's time for lunch.
Hó-yíh sihk ngaan-jau la.

It's time for recess.
Hó-yíh yāu-sīk la.

It's time to clean up.
Yiu jíng gòn-jehng dī deih-fòng la.

Please close the door.
Mh-gói néih saàn-maàih douh muhn.

Would you like to work here?
Néih jùng-yi haí nī-syu jouh-yéh ma?

Follow what the teacher does with your finger.
Yuhng sáu jí gan-jyuh sīn-saàng gàm jouh.

Please come with me.
Chéng néih gān-jyuh ngóh laìh.

It's time to be quiet and listen.
Yīng-gòi mh-hóu choùh. Yīng-gòi tèng sīn-saàng góng la.

Please wait here.
Mh-gói néih kéih-haí nī-syu dáng.

(Continued on next page)

COMMON ARTICLES FOUND IN THE CLASSROOM
GAAU-SĀK SEUHNG-YUHNG MAHT-BÁN

pencil -- yùhn-bāt

paper -- jí

chalk -- fán-bāt

blackboard -- hak-báan

eraser -- hāk-báan chaat

book -- syù

paint -- waahk wá

paintbrush -- wá bāt

clay -- naìh

DAYS OF THE WEEK -- SÌNG-KÈIH YAHT-JÍ

Sunday -- Láih-baai-yaht

Monday -- Láih-baai-yāt

Tuesday -- Láih-baai-yih

Wednesday -- Láih-baai-saàm

Thursday -- Láih-baai-se

Friday -- Láih-baai-ńgh

Saturday -- Láih-baai-luhk

MONTHS -- YUHT-FAHN

January -- Yāt-yuht

February -- Yih-yuht

March -- Saàm-yuht

April -- Sei-yuht

May -- Ńgh-yuht

June -- Luhk-yuht

July -- Chāt-yuht

August -- Baat-yuht

September -- Gáu-yuht

October -- Sahp-yuht

November -- Sahp-yāt-yuht

December -- Sahp-yih-yuht

(Continued on next page)

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CALENDAR, NUMBERS, AND TIME

CARDINAL NUMBERS -- GEĪ-SOU

1 -- yāt	*7* -- chāt	*40* -- sei-sahp
2 -- yih	*8* -- baat	*50* -- ńgh-sahp
3 -- saàm	*9* -- gau	*60* -- luhk-sahp
4 -- sei	*10* -- sahp	*70* -- chāt-sahp
5 -- ńgh	*20* -- yih-sahp	*80* -- baat-sahp
6 -- luhk	*30* -- saàm-sahp	*90* -- gáu-sahp

100 -- yāt-baak

ORDINAL NUMBERS -- JEUIH-SOU

first -- daih-yāt	*sixth* -- daih-luhk
second -- daih-yih	*seventh* -- daih-chāt
third -- daih-saàm	*eighth* -- daih-baat
fourth -- daih-sei	*ninth* -- daih-gáu
fifth -- daih-ńgh	*tenth* -- daih-sahp

(Continued on next page)

What time is it?
Yìh-gā géi dím-jūng?

It is _____ *o'clock.*
Yìh-gā _____ dím-jūng.

What day is it?
Gàm-yaht láih-baai-géi?

Today is _____.
Gam-yaht lāih-baai _____.

School begins at _____.
Hohk-haauh _____ hòi hohk.

morning -- jíù-tàuh-jóu; jìu-jóu

afternoon -- hah-jau; ngaan-jau

evening -- máahn

night -- máahn

day -- yaht

yesterday -- kàhm-yaht

today -- gàm-yaht

tomorrow -- tìng-yaht

Reading -- yuht-dohk (dohk-sỳu)

Mathematics -- sou-hohk

Arithmetic -- syun-seuht

Spelling -- chyun-jih; pīng-yām

Physical Education -- tái-yuhk

Social Studies -- séh-wúi-fō-hohk

Science -- (jih-yìhn) fō-hohk

English -- yìng-màhn

Center -- jūng-sām

Free time -- jih yaùh sih-gaan

Independent activity -- jih-yaùh wuht-duhng *OR* jih-lahp wuht-duhng

History -- lihk-sí

Music -- yām-ngohk

Art -- méih-seuht

SHAPES -- YÌHNG-JOHNG

circle -- yùhn-(hyūn)

triangle -- saàm-gok (yìhng)

square -- sei-fōng (yìhng)

rectangle -- cheùhng-fōng (yìhng)

SIZES -- DAAIH-SÍU

small -- sai

medium -- jūng-(tíng)

large -- daaih

little -- síu; sai

middle -- jūng

big -- daaih

COLORS -- NGAÀHN-SĪK

red -- hùhng-sīk

blue -- lāahm-sīk

yellow -- wòhng-sīk

white -- baahk-sīk

black -- hāak-sīk

orange -- cháang-sīk

green -- luhk-sīk

purple -- jí-sīk

pink -- fán-hùhng sīk

brown -- ga-fē sīk; jūng-sīk

BODY PARTS -- SĀN-TÁI BOUH-FAHN

Head -- Taùh

.*hair* -- taùh-faat

.*eyes* -- ngáahn

.*ears* -- yíh

.*nose* -- beih

.*mouth* -- háu

.*teeth* -- ngaàh

.*face* -- mihn

.*neck* -- géng

.*chin* -- hah-pàh

.*cheeks* -- mihn-jyū-dān

.*eyebrows* -- ngáahn-mèih

.*tongue* -- leih

(Continued on next page)

Body -- Sàn-tái

.*shoulders* -- bok-tàuh

.*arms* -- sáu bei

.*hands* -- sáu

.*fingers* -- sáu-jí

.*elbows* -- sáu-jàang

.*wrists* -- sáu-wún; sáu-ngaau

.*chest* -- hùng

.*stomach* -- waih

.*waist* -- yìu

.*hips* -- daaih-béi

.*back* -- bui-jek

.*buttocks* -- sí-fāt

.*thighs* -- daaih-béi

.*knees* -- sāt-taùh-gō

.*feet* -- geuk

.*toes* -- geuk jí

.*legs* -- geuk

.*ankles* -- geuk ngau; sāt-taùh-gō

(Continued on next page)

BODY ACTIONS -- SÀN-TAI GEUI-DUHNG

walk -- haàhng

march -- (hàhng-gwàn); (héi bouh jáu)

run -- páau

sit -- chóh

stand -- kéih

crawl -- pàh; làan

roll -- lūk

kneel -- gwaih (-deì)

bend -- wāt

twist -- náu

stretch -- sān (-cheuhng)

jump -- tiu

wiggle -- yíuh

skip -- tiu

hop -- tiu

gallop -- (faai páau)

lie down -- fan-deì

SPATIAL RELATIONS AND RELATIVE TERMS
HÙNG-GAAN WÒH SEUNG-DEUI GWĀAN-HAIH

first -- jeui-sìn; daih-yāt

last -- jeui-hauh

second -- daih-yih

middle -- jūng-gāan

more -- dō-(dī)

less - síu-(dī)

beginning -- hòi-chí; héi-sáu

end -- sāu-mēi

many -- dō

few -- síu

under -- hah-bihn

above -- seuhng-bihn

below -- hah-bihn; yih-hah

on top of -- seuhng-bihn

beside -- jāk-bīn; pòhng-bīn

between -- jūng-gāan

RELATIVE TERMS -- SEUHNG-DEUI GWĀAN-HAIH

smaller -- sai-(dī)

bigger -- daaih-(dī)

shorter -- déun-(dī)

taller -- goù-(dī)

longer -- cheùhng-(dī)

older -- lóuh-(dī)

younger -- hauh-saang-(dī)

newer -- sàn-(dī)

lower -- dài-(dī)

higher -- goù-(dī)

slower -- maahn-(dī)

faster -- faai-(dī)

father -- baàh-bā; bā-bā

mother -- maàh-mā; mā-mā

brother -- gòh-gō; gō-gō *(elder brothers)*
sai-lóu; daih-daih *(younger brothers)*

sister -- jèh-jē *(elder sisters)*
muìh-muī *(younger sisters)*

grandmother -- jóu-móuh; a-màh

grandfather -- jóu-fuh; a-yèh

cousin -- kā-sán
tòhng-go *(paternal uncle's elder son)*
tòhng-sai-lóu *(paternal uncle's younger son)*
tòhng-jē *(paternal uncle's elder daughter)*
tòhng-múi *(paternal uncle's younger daughter)*
bíu-gō *(maternal uncle's elder son)*
bíu-dái *(maternal uncle's younger son)*
bíu-jé *(maternal uncle's elder daughter)*
bíu-múi *(maternal uncle's younger daughter)*

aunt -- an-tìh; baak-mouh; gū-mā; yih-mā

uncle -- an-kouh; baak-fuh; sūk; káuh-fú

son -- jái

daughter -- néui

post office -- yàuh-(jing)-gūk

letter carrier -- yàuh-chaài

library -- toùh-syù-gún

librarian -- toùh-syù-gún-yùhn

school -- hohk-haauh

principal -- haauh-jéung

teacher -- sīn-sàang; lóuh-si

school aides -- joh gaau

custodian -- haauh-gung

hospital -- yī-yún

doctor -- yī-sāng

nurse -- hòn-wuh; wuh-sih

fire station -- sìu-fohng-gūk; sìu-fohng-déui; séui chē-gun

fireman -- gau-fó-yùhn

police station -- gíng-chaat gūk; chaaì-gún

policeman -- gíng-chaat; chaaì-yàhn

market -- magit; síh-cheùhng

clerk -- jīk-yùhn *OR* syù-gei

playground -- wahn-duhng-chèuhng; chou cheuhng

playground director -- wahn-duhng-cheùhng jyú-yahm

coach -- gaau-lihn

park -- gùng-yún

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE TO ROMANIZED CANTONESE

Cantonese has seven tones. The following diacritical marks are used to indicate the different tones:

high falling	à
high rising	á
middle level	a
high level	ā
low falling	àh
low rising	ah
low level	ah

The letter "h" is used after the vowel to differentiate between the upper and lower levels:

Example:	High Level	Low Level
	dou	dough
	faan	faahn
	bong	bohng
	hai	haih

For most of the words beginning with m, n, and ng that are already in the lower level group, the "h" will not be used as an indicator.

When two high falling tones follow each other, the first becomes high level.

Example: sìnsàang = sīnsàang